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AIR FORCE COMMANDER ORLANDO AGOSTI REPLACED

FY122355Y Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2337 GMT 12 Jan 79 FY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 12 Jan (NA)--Maj Gen Omar Domingo Rubens Grafigna has been appointed new commander of the air force. General Grafigna will assume command of the air force, replacing Brig Gen Orlando Ramon Agosti at a ceremony to be held on 25 January.

RETIRED VICE ADMIRAL COMMENTS ON BEAGLE DISPUTE

FY122333Y Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1409 GMT 12 Jan 79 FY

[Text] Mendoza, 12 Jan (NA)--Vice Adm Isaac Rojas (ret) has stated that the Montevideo agreement, through which Argentina and Chile agreed to resume negotiations on the southern border dispute, "opens a promising perspective for our country," but he believes that "peace is still not assured." Rojas made this statement in a speech he delivered in San Rafael on "the southern issue and the upper Parana problem."

Speaking about papal mediation in the Chilean-Argentine dispute, Rojas said it is hoped that the Holy See "will say we are right on the bases of historical and judicial references," and that it will advise Chile to adjust to the borders from which it was never able to depart--that is, the Pacific Ocean and Navarino Island to the west." When he concluded his speech, he was asked if he believes peace is assured after the signing of the Montevideo agreement. Rojas answered that "peace is not assured. What is assured is an effort to maintain peace." He said that "if Chile does not recognize and respect our rights, if it continues to maintain an intransigent attitude, a provocative attitude, as it has until now, Argentina will be forced to protect itself."

EDITOR FONTEVECCHIA RELEASED BY CAPTORS

FY131341Y Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1142 GMT 13 Jan 79 FY

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 13 Jan (NA)--The journalist Jorge Alberto Fontevecchia, editor of the magazine LA SEMANA, was freed by his captors early this morning in good condition in the Little Palermo neighborhood of this city, according to an announcement of the Perfil firm, which publishes the magazine.

The news was welcomed by Alberto Fontevecchia, father of the journalist and president of the firm, who indicated that his son had apparently been kidnaped for the purpose of being held for ransom.

Fontevecchia said that the release of the LA SEMANA editor came about at 0200 a block from the corner of Salguero and Figueroa Alcorta.

BRIEFS

MINE RESERVES RELEASED--Buenos Aires, 10 Jan (TELAM)--The mining secretariat reported that 25,810 sq km of mine reserves have been freed and placed at the disposal of private enterprises in accordance with the Patagonia-Comahue geological plan. The mine reserves are located in the provinces of Rio Negro, Chubut and Neuquen. The largest mine reserves are in the province of Rio Negro, with 14,700 sq km. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1940 GMT 10 Jan 79 FY]

ELECTORAL LAW AMENDED TO GROUPS' SPECIFICATIONS

PY121400Y La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 12 Jan 79 PY

[Text] The military government junta has made 35 amendments to the electoral law of 30 April 1965; they will be in force for the coming elections on 1 July and the proposals of the political fronts and parties have thus been heeded. The amendments approved by the military government junta are contained in Decree No 16,095. The following are the most important:

Citizens will be registered by presenting an identity card, military service booklet, baptism certificate, birth certificate or family registration booklet. Officers and personnel of the armed forces will be registered by presenting their military certificates.

The multicolor and multisymbol ballot has been approved and will be printed by the National Electoral Court without any charge to the parties. However, the party, front or coalition which does not succeed in obtaining a minimum of 50,000 votes in the elections will have the obligation of reimbursing to the national treasury its share of the cost for inclusion on the ballot.

The amendments made by the government further say that each department will elect a number of deputies according to the following proportion: five basic deputies for each department, one for every 50,000 inhabitants, excluding the population of the capitals, using demographic data provided by the National Statistics Institute. The seats for deputies will be awarded to the candidacy lists registered by the political parties. The total number of votes obtained at the elections in each department will be divided by the number of deputies to be elected; the result of the division will be the figure to be used for the distribution of seats.

It has further been stipulated that the National Electoral Court will establish the characteristics of the multicolor and multisymbol ballot and the way in which the voter will mark his choice.

Another amendment approved by the military government junta says that the departmental electoral courts will publish the number of voters registered in their respective departments within 10 days of the closing of the voters' registers.

Demands for disqualification of those elected or nullification of proceedings can only be submitted to the National Electoral Court, whose decision will be final.

The political parties will accredit a delegate and two deputies as their representatives to the National Electoral Court. It is further said that the modifications made by the military government junta have been made because, when it assumed the leadership of the country in accordance with the commitment made to the nation, it accepted the patriotic task of constitutionalizing the powers of the state through the expression of popular will in free, democratic and clean general elections. To this end it is necessary to have a legal normative rule by means of a juridical instrument which should be in accordance with the democratic vocation of the government and the concerns and aspirations of the people in their just demand to participate directly in the appointment of their rulers.

STATION SUSPENDS NEWSCASTS TO OBSERVE STRIKE

PY131713Y La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 13 Jan 79 PY

[Text] Our press department will have no newscasts today, in accordance with orders issued by the Bolivian Press Workers Federation, [which has decreed a strike for today].

FIGUEIREDO'S CABINET COMPLETE; LIST RELEASED

PY121501Y Sao Paulo Cadeia Verde Amarela in Portuguese 1000 GMT 12 Jan 79 PY

[Excerpts] General Figueiredo's cabinet has now been completed with the appointment of diplomat Ramiro Saraiva Guerreiro, former secretary general of Itamaraty and current ambassador to France. If no last-minute changes are made the cabinet of President Joao Baptista Figueiredo will be as follows:

Agriculture	Delfim Netto
Transportation and Public Works	Elizeu Rezende
Health	Mario Augusto Castro Lima
Foreign Affairs	Ramiro Saraiva Guerreiro
Min. Chief of the Planning Secretariat of the Presidency	Mario Henrique Simonsen
Finance	Karlos Rischbieter
Interior	Mario Andreazza
Justice	Petronio Portella
Social Communications	Said Farhat
Communications	Haroldo de Mattos
Industry and Commerce	Joao Camilo Pena
Labor	Murilo Macedo
Army	Gen Walter Pires
Navy	Adm Maximiano da Silva Fonseca
Air	Lt Gen Delio Jardim de Mattos (ret)
Chief of the Armed Forces Staff	Gen Jose Maria de Andrada Serpa
Chief, National Intelligence Service	Gen Otavio Aguiar de Medeiros
Chief, Military Household of Presidency	Newton Oliveira e Cruz
Welfare and Social Security	Jair Soares
Mines and Energy	Cesar Cals
Chief, Civilian Household of the Presidency	Gen Golbery de Couto e Silva
Secretary General of the Presidency	Heitor de Aquino
Special Minister [ministro extraordinario]	Danilo Venturini
Special Adviser	(Paiva Chaves)

[Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese on 11 January, page 5, reports that Eduardo Portella will be the new education minister].

INCOMING VICE PRESIDENT PLANS TO VISIT PRC

PY121642Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1548 GMT 12 Jan 79 PY

[Text] Brasilia, 12 Jan (AFP)--Aureliano Chaves, who will be sworn in as vice president on 15 March, will officially visit the PRC in May or June, it was reported here today by a reliable source.

The two countries have decided to expand their ties and last year signed an important trade agreement. Mines and Energy Minister Shigeaki Ueki traveled to Peking at the end of 1978.

CONTRERAS CASE CALLED JUDICIAL, NOT GOVERNMENTAL

PY130106Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2222 GMT 12 Jan 79 PY

[Excerpts] Santiago, Chile, 12 Jan (AFP)--The Chilean Government denied today that it was responsible for the arrest of Gen Manuel Contreras (ret) for his involvement in the Letelier case. A high-ranking government official stated that General Contreras is under arrest by order of the court while it studies the extradition request submitted by the United States.

Gen Rene Vidal, government secretary general, said today that General Contreras' arrest was ordered by the Chilean courts as a result of a request submitted by the U.S. courts. Vidal added: That is, it is part of a judicial process, and the Chilean Government has been quite explicit in noting that it is a judicial matter.

He noted: Furthermore, the government has been very certain in its procedures and actions to respect the independence with which the judicial branch acts in Chile.

ARGENTINE ENVOY TO MAKE 'PERSONAL' VISIT HOME

PY131742Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1528 GMT 13 Jan 79 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 13 Jan (AFP)--Hugo Mario Miatello, Argentine envoy to Chile, is traveling to Buenos Aires today for personal reasons, the Argentine Embassy has reported.

This week Miatello held a meeting with Chilean Foreign Minister Hernan Cubillos to explain the reasons for his trip. The Argentine Embassy indicated that Miatello would stay in Buenos Aires for 10 days, but did not disclose the purpose of the trip. It involves personal matters, it stated.

During the ambassador's absence Minister Councilor Augusto Falciola will serve as charge d'affaires.

[Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish at 1659 GMT on 13 January reports that Miatello's flight was delayed 2 hours at Pudahuel airport in Santiago because of a bomb threat. The plane was emptied and searched.]

PISAINER SAYS ARGENTINES WANTED SECRET SIGNING

PY121819Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 12 Jan 79 PY

[Rafael Pisainer commentary]

[Excerpts] We had said that the meeting held last Monday by Foreign Ministers Pastor and Cubillos with Cardinal Samore was almost held earlier, that is, on Saturday. A disclosure made by Uruguayan diplomatic sources pointed out the reason the meeting was not held on Saturday; this was, ladies and gentlemen, a truly amazing disclosure.

There was a moment in which Argentina asked that document No 2 be signed in secret and that no copy of the document be distributed. This document states that both countries vow to relinquish the use of force, to restore the military conditions existing as of early 1977 and to refrain from taking any initiative which may threaten the harmony in any sector.

In view of this, Foreign Minister Cubillos--Argentine official circles are well aware of the validity of this assertion--realized that he was facing a difficult issue. This proposal, which was made on Saturday, was believed to have been overcome during the weekend but Foreign Minister Pastor reiterated it in Montevideo. At that point, after he was already in Montevideo, Foreign Minister Cubillos stated Monday night that he was not going to sign anything and that it should be considered that the Montevideo talks had failed.

Foreign Minister Pastor claimed that he did not have the authority to sign publicly a document of that nature. Cardinal Samore said then that the Vatican will take no part in the signing of any secret agreement, making clear that the document must be public.

Finally, after intensive negotiations and consultations carried out by Argentina, and with no other solution, it was agreed to sign the agreement publicly. It should be noted that the Argentine Government refused to sign publicly a document which is practically equivalent to a nonaggression pact between the two countries.

To give you an actual account of the events, we should note that the Argentine ambassador to Montevideo contributed to finding a solution to this problem because he is a personal friend of General Viola, the Argentine Army commander in chief. The ambassador called General Viola, who contacted the members of Military Committee--which is the decision-making group--and after seven phone calls were made in 1 hour from Montevideo to Buenos Aires, President Videla finally ordered the signing of the document.

Furthermore, this is why President Videla addressed the nation on Monday night, an hour after the signing of the agreement, to explain it to the Argentine nation and, at the same time, to reiterate the amusing two-ocean theory, which is the 47th or 48th theory--we have already lost track of them--the Argentine Government has maintained in this conflict.

There were other extremely amusing details. The Argentine Government asked Uruguayan protocol officials not to allow anyone with a camera or a recorder at the signing ceremony. The Argentines asked that photographers, radio reporters, and television cameramen be allowed in the Taranco Palace only after the signing ceremony.

But in all this Vatican resourcefulness prevailed. After the two foreign ministers, Cardinal Samore and his advisers Monsignors Cavalli and Sainz Munoz entered the room, and as the signing ceremony was starting, Monsignor Sainz said with an air of surprise, as if he just became aware of something: "La stampa, la stampa," that is, "the press, the press," in Italian, and opened the door to let in the 140 reporters who were waiting in the anteroom, who then took pictures, taped and filmed every part of the ceremony, thus making the Argentines quite unhappy.

The Argentines were also unhappy over the presence at the ceremony of the ambassadors of Paraguay, the United States and Brazil, who attended the signing of these documents as eyewitnesses, since it was assumed that these were sound, not shady documents, signed between two serious governments, which have nothing to hide and which can sign documents and openly assume responsibility for their actions.

PRESIDENT DELIVERS STATE OF NATION SPEECH

PA121400Y Quito Domestic Service in Spanish 0145 GMT 12 Jan 79 PA

[Speech to the nation by Adm Alfredo Poveda Burbano, president of Supreme Council of Government, delivered in Quito--presumably live]

[Excerpts] Fellow citizens, on 8 January 1976 the armed forces decided that the Joint Command should take over the government. We accepted this tremendous, historic responsibility so as to carry out a transforming and dynamic process that would open specific paths of progress to the nation's social, economic, political, legal and cultural reorganization, and also implement an adequate political process in order to restore the constitutional regime in a responsible, organized, peaceful and prudent manner.

The Supreme Council of Government has maintained its decision to carry out the national goals. It has also determined the policies to be carried out and the transformation and development plans. It also issued the plan for the constitutional reorganization of the country and has done everything necessary to make the constitutional plan acceptable. It promoted a new democratic life more in line with the reality of the Ecuadorean people [words indistinct]. It opened a safe path in order to carry out the social transformations that would make general welfare possible in an effective and harmonious way.

The Supreme Council of Government [illegible]ware of its irrevocable aspirations and of the legitimate demands for social justice, of the nation's need for total development, of respect for the citizens' rights and freedoms, and of the need to strengthen Ecuador's historic role.

We have always kept the nation's permanent goals in mind: The defense of its territorial integrity; of every aspect of its political, economic, territorial, social and cultural integration; the preservation of the nation's sovereignty; and its general development, as well as its social welfare and security. In order to make these possible, we implemented the necessary policies and established [word indistinct] national goals. All our effort has been in this direction.

We will continue to promote the program, which places special emphasis on the following fields: Civic and political preparation of the Ecuadorean people that will permit them to attain true democracy in full exercise of a legal and social order; the implementation of a healthy nationalism which preserves the [word indistinct] and sovereignty of the nation, that strengthens the nation's prestige in every aspect, that strengthens Ecuador's role in the regional and international fields and that assures that the nation's best interests always prevail in decisions taken; equal opportunities for all Ecuadoreans so that common welfare is assured as well as effective social justice; constant growth and progress of gross domestic production, encouraging private enterprise accompanied by stability in local prices and currency exchange; permanent per capita growth; a sharp reduction in unemployment; overcoming the state of backwardness, stagnation and poverty of the large majority; the redistribution of income; the just participation of workers in wealth production; always seeking harmonious relations among government, capital and labor, according to the needs for the nation's development and the convenience of improving business and labor sectors; the incorporation of all the nation's regions in the development while, at the same time, erradicating regionalism, anarchy, disorder, subversion and those causes which work against the nation's security; the total improvement of the armed forces; the development of human resources, particularly in those areas which have been neglected, giving special attention to the education system which permits the development of the nation; and to fulfill the aspirations for culture and progress of the Ecuadorean people.

These objectives and other political goals were announced in good time to the people. The norms and actions to be taken were properly studied, as well as the organization of the numerous projects carried out by the armed forces government in the years in which it has had the responsibility of government.

Our action as a government has given special attention to national security. In order to strengthen it, we have guaranteed [word indistinct] peace, propitiated progress and set the basis for a productive civic action. We are convinced that a high civic spirit insures that social changes are carried out harmoniously, that progress requires peace and order, and that a nation that progresses [words indistinct] of faith, courage and greatness.

Efficient armed forces are certainly a guarantee of the nation's domestic and international security. This security is indispensable to maintaining the proper conditions for development of the community and for the exercise of citizens' rights.

It has been our concern to give the armed forces and police the necessary means for training and carrying out their duties, so that they have the indispensable equipment to do their duty in defense of the nation while at the same time meeting the nation's demands for progress.

In the international field we have strengthened the republic's prestige and respectability by maintaining a policy of respect for fundamental principles and of protection of the fatherland's interests and irrenounceable rights. The defense of our sovereignty and territorial integrity is a permanent goal which has been zealously observed. Ecuador considers that the creation of an international climate proper for solving general and specific problems requires the cooperation of all nations. In this respect the government has offered every possible contribution for maintaining peace, for the peaceful solution of controversies and for eliminating every obstacle that deters peaceful coexistence and cooperation among nations. Ecuador has strengthened its bonds with all friendly nations and has expanded its international relations to all corners of the world on the basis of mutual respect.

We have worked with determination to comply with the objectives set forth for the domestic sector. We have overcome difficulties related to the modernization of the administration and the consequent need to train public employees. We have overcome the antagonism and contradictions involved in the changes underway and in the transitional phase we are experiencing. The results have been positive and the government's honesty, determination and good will have received the proper understanding from our noble people.

Respectful of the freedom of expression, we have heeded all constructive criticism, although keeping the public welfare in mind.

In order to develop our national economy, we have corrected policies and concentrated on the most essential matters by harmonizing the intricate interests of every production factor and coordinating the use of public capital and the promotion of private enterprise.

The discovery of oil permitted the promotion of projects of great significance. The channeling of such wealth within a development policy bolstered the economy and made possible the growth of new and important sources of production.

The confidence generated in the country and abroad, the climate of peace, the respect for law and the improvement of public administration have greatly contributed to our general progress and welfare.

Ecuador is emerging from its status as an importer of farm products and becoming an agricultural industrialized state and a supplier of manufactured products, increasing our export possibilities and greatly reducing unemployment.

In the 1978 fiscal year, the Ecuadorean economy's growth rate was 6.8 percent. This simple figure does not mean anything in itself but, placed in the context of the national economy in terms of the past decade, the figure gains significance. In effect, to grow at a yearly rate of 6.8 percent is to grow at one of the best rates, surpassed by only a few countries, very few countries. Furthermore, this rate indicates that Ecuador has sustained, not sporadic, growth which is especially important and has great economic meaning.

The country's gross national product, which in 1970 totaled 34.638 billion sucres, totaled 180.377 billion sucres in 1978 at current prices and 69.296 billion sucres at constant prices from the base year. This shows that the outlook for the nation's economy has doubled in the period noted.

Ecuadoreans' per capita income increased from $257 in 1971 to $842 in 1978, denoting a substantial improvement of the family's purchasing power. However, the aforementioned 6.8-percent annual growth rate is but a result [words indistinct] of the sum total of development of the various sectors of Ecuador's economy, and here the analysis leads to moderately optimistic plans. Thus, the manufactured goods sector grew more until it reached 12.9 percent [words indistinct] by electricity, gas and water production with 12 percent. The other sectors grew at similar rates: Mines and (?quarries) [words indistinct], crude oil and natural gas at 10.4 percent, financial activities at 7.8 percent, [words indistinct] at 8.1 percent, commerce and transportation activities at 6.8 percent and various service enterprises at 5.6 percent.

The estimated gross national product totals 180.377 billion sucres with agriculture, livestock, forestry, game and fishing the most important sector, with 34.952 billion, commerce and transportation with 32.314 billion, oil with 17.430 billion, and the production of (?movable) goods with 14.703 billion. These figures lead us to think that we are reaching balanced growth, and that we are emerging from dependence on a single product. All this is definitely positive.

This does not mean that everything is well. There is still underdevelopment of the agricultural sector, which still does not respond to the efforts and credits allocated. The government is aware of the problem and (?plans to carry out) adequate solutions. We believe that the agricultural sector will respond positively to the benefits derived from the network of feeder roads that will permit the incorporation of large agricultural areas into production and the strengthening of the agroindustrial sector with healthy benefits for the consumer and the national economy.

There is also the unequal distribution of income, which will be overcome through integral improvement of the standard of living of families. [Words indistinct] that we could not disregard but that [words indistinct] work of national government which (?established) solid foundations that are evident when (?observing) the positive panorama of the national economy, despite the fact that the political situation has had a negative effect on bank credits. This has had a negative psychological impact on the national economy's productive sectors.

During 1978 important steps were taken to fulfill the political plan for the legal reorganization of the state. The Ecuadoreans [words indistinct] of the most authentic democracy. On 14 (?January) they chose, through a referendum, the new constitution, which is an essential document for democratic life.

The constitution establishes a climate of freedom, legality and justice, as well as substantial achievements in favor of the individual, the family, work and social security. It also includes important changes regarding political rights, the legislative, executive and judicial branches, the [words indistinct] the administrative system. The constitutional guarantees establish a framework of action in which the Ecuadorean can more easily find his well-being and progress.

The national government also issued the elections and political parties laws, drafted by the third legislative commission for the referendum. It also appointed the electoral tribunals which had the responsibility of carrying out the elections of 10 July [date as heard]. The elections and political parties laws are also vital for the democratic life of the state. They lay the foundation on which the Chamber of Representatives will be based and [words indistinct] the great political parties. In this way, with the guarantee of [words indistinct] representative democracy, thanks to the civic maturity of the people and the capacity of action of the political organizations [words indistinct].

The first round of the presidential elections was held on 16 July. Those elections made it evident that the government would fulfill the decisions it had adopted with sincerity and seriousness--decisions in line with national objectives--and the civic spirit of our compatriots, their democratic spirit and their desire to (?participate) in the glorious destiny of our nation. The Supreme Electoral Tribunal, in the process of the vote count of the 16 July elections, denounced certain irregularities which were confirmed by the new Supreme Electoral Tribunal. Those irregularities brought about natural repudiation, confusion and even the request by some sectors that the elections be annulled. The armed forces, after making an analysis which led them to the conviction that the great majority of the votes cast represented the desire of the Ecuadoreans, issued a public statement on 23 September expressing support for the government's decision to respect the popular will and continue the state legal reorganization plan. On (?6) December, after the Supreme Electoral Tribunal presented its final report, we ratified that important decision.

While such obviously important events for the institutionalization of the country were taking place, the criminal attack which caused the death of economist Abdon Calderon Munoz occurred in December. There was general repudiation of the action throughout the country. The central government, whose basic characteristic has been unconditional respect of the essential rights of human beings, firmly condemned the abhorrent attack and ordered a broad and active investigation process. When there were indications of the participation of agents of the state institution, it immediately took measures for the solution of the crime.

The Supreme Council of Government has proceeded in this case with the dignity and righteousness that have always characterized it. The investigative process was turned over to the judicial branch so that it, as an independent branch subject only to law, can find, try and punish all those responsible for the abhorrent criminal action, and so that it can [word indistinct] Ecuador's political tradition [words indistinct] bringing grief, anguish and concern not only to his family and friends but to all the Ecuadorean family. Despite the clear action of the central government, there have been some persons who, wanting to take advantage of the situation, however remote, have tried to discredit the national government, blaming it of [words indistinct] in the investigation and even accusing it of [words indistinct] of covering specific facts. We categorically reject this attitude, these accusations and these [words indistinct] with just indignation.

In relation to [words indistinct] government, with any excuse they are trying to prevent the legal restructuring plan from being fulfilled because they fear that respect for the people's will may affect their selfish, individual or group interests. I want to emphasize in this respect that the will of the sovereign people, which the armed forces will respect, is unbreakable and indestructible. Undoubtedly, fellow citizens, the government has given (?repeated) testimony of respect for liberty and individual rights. It has been receptive and understanding of criticism and reasonable opposition and, even when attacked, has answered nobly, prudently, and calmly, upholding the law and justice. Dark actions for which we are heinously blamed can only be conceived and carried out by those who think they are immune trampling upon freedom and human rights, gagging the press, disavowing justice and the law, and offending the truth. In a society which is fundamentally moral, as is Ecuador's, and in such an open society as that in which we live, where liberty reigns, justice is independent and the law establishes order and peace, the crime committed against economist Abdon Calderon was an abnormal (?action) which we all reject and which we should all help to clarify and punish. And such will be the government's action.

The restoration of the constitutional system by the people's genuine will is undefeatable and irreversible. Nobody will be able to obstruct this process because reason and justice are (?on our side), and it responds to the people's unrenounceable aspirations.

The plan of legal reorganization of the state also responds to a new military mentality, conscious of its duties, conscious of the political responsibility it has through its highest commands, and also conscious of the present-day reality and of its privilege of serving the cause of peace within constitutional living [words indistinct] of the state. Consequently, it is a plan that seeks the unity of all Ecuadoreans, the elimination of hatred and terrorism, dark maneuvers and damaging demogoguery to make possible, thanks to joint efforts, the (?great) and glorious fatherland sought by our forefathers and desired by us all.

Patriotic political activities should unceasingly seek the nation's progress through the presentation by political parties of different doctrines, guidelines and answers placed before the people for their consideration. For this reason we have continuously insisted on the need for the organization of large political movements from which leaders will rise who are capable of exercising the executive functions of the state. In the same way, the members of the legislative branch, which will legislate and regulate the nation's life, should jointly with the judicial branch constitute a harmonious balance of powers which will insure fidelity to our traditions and respect for our sovereign will--a future of peace, progress and justice for the republic.

Let us understand that political strife should not be destructive, lacking in respect for human dignity, but that it also is motivated by opportunism and selfish interests. During the second electoral round the Ecuadorean people should choose their leaders for the next constitutional period responsibly and in a republican spirit. It is up to the political parties to enlist the majorities and present to the people's consideration the best citizens to be their representatives. (?They should present) action programs which will best meet the needs and hopes of the people. The Chamber of Representatives will be the soul, nerve, security and the permanent activating agent in the life of the republic in the same measure that it demonstrates responsibility, ability and efficacy in interpreting the just demands, interests and legitimate individual and collective rights, thus facilitating progress and justice for all.

The armed forces and their government are satisfied with their work because they have been faithful to the commitments they acquired before the country and because of their contribution to the progress that has been attained.

Convinced of their values and principles and honesty of procedure, they have calmly coped with the most pressing difficulties. Fairly and unhesitatingly they have tried to solve problems of every kind which have cropped up. With honesty they have adjusted planned policies and have been faithful to the purposes and the norms condusive to the reestablishment of the representative democratic system.

The present historic moment is of vital importance and demands the responsible, sincere and vigorous dedication of the governing and the governed in order to reestablish constitutional order. Once power has been handed over to the person elected by the people, the armed forces will continue fulfilling their specific duties with healthy pride in having given with dignity and uprightness their historic contribution to the restructuring of the nation, with the sincere confidence and fervent hope that the new public institutions and their leaders will fulfill their national mission with capability, honesty, vigor, maturity and deep patriotism.

The future of Ecuador is the responsibility of all Ecuadoreans. To insure it, it is indispensable to have national unity, civilian and military coordination, and the cooperation and efforts of the population directed exclusively by a profound love for the country toward the attainment of the nation's best interests. Thank you.

ELECTIONS LAW REFORM BILL TO BE MADE PUBLIC AFTER REVIEW

PA111425Y Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 11 Jan 79 PA

[Text] The Supreme Electoral Tribunal yesterday decided not to make public the bill that amends the elections law while it is being reviewed by the Supreme Council of Government, reported Gustavo Chavez, president of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal. He added, however, that he has revealed the main points over the past few days, and the press has reported them.

The tribunal is currently waiting for the government to issue the reforms.

It was reported that the activities of the political parties have been somewhat paralyzed in view of the silence regarding the reforms.

In an unexpected remark, Chavez said: I have no objection to stepping down from this position as soon as the public feels it is convenient for me to do so. I am here by order of the law, he added.

GOVERNMENT ARRESTS NEWSPAPER PERSONNEL FOR SLANDER

PA120427Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 0234 GMT 12 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Quito, 11 Jan (EFE)--The Ecuadorean military government announced tonight that it has ordered the arrest of the director and chief editor in Quito of the Guayaquil newspaper EXPRESO. According to the official announcement, Abelardo Garcia and Francisco Salazar must appear in a court of justice to answer for "insulting the armed forces" in an article published today on the third anniversary of the government. According to the official press communique, the government and the armed forces as institutions "emphatically reject the slanderous insults" of the newspaper.

The government and the armed forces also warned that they will not tolerate "any insult or provocation from any citizen or organization.

"Attacking the armed forces is tantamount to wounding the soul of the Ecuadorean soldier, who is prepared to give everything to defend his honor." The communique added that the purpose of these articles is to obstruct the democratic reorganization plan.

The article included the opinions of several politicians on the military triumvirate's accomplishments, criticized its incompetence to govern and denounced illegal enrichment.

PROFESSIONAL GROUPS PROTEST JOURNALIST'S ARREST

PA130455Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 0157 GMT 13 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Quito, 12 Jan (EFE)--The arrest of Francisco Salazar, editor in chief of the Quito office of the Guayaquil newspaper EXPRESO, has caused a wave of protests in Ecuador. The arrest of Salazar and the issuance of a warrant for the arrest of Abelardo Garcia, director of the newspaper, who is now in the United States, was ordered by the government because it considered an article on its 3-year administration to be slanderous.

The National Federation of Journalists, the principal organization of journalists, sent a telegram to the Council of Government requesting an audience for the purpose of demanding the immediate release of the newsman and the cancellation of the arrest warrant against Garcia. Federation President Alberto Maldonado said that the case should be turned over to the judges to determine if there is sufficient cause for the arrests.

Similar opinions were expressed by the National Union of Journalists, the associations of journalists of several provinces, information media and political leaders.

The article which caused the drastic reaction, the most serious of the past decade, included the opinions of three political leaders on the accomplishments of the military triumvirate, which completed 3 years in power on Thursday. The article harshly criticized the presence of the military in power and accused them of fraudulent activities. The government rejected the charges and accused the newspaper of trying to obstruct the constitutionalization process now in progress in Ecuador.

EXPRESO replied to the official statements today by attributing the government's attitude to the newspaper's "honesty" in reporting the news on the murder of politician Abdon Calderon.

GOVERNMENT WITHDRAWS WARRANT FOR GARCIA'S ARREST

PA141338Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 0041 GMT 14 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Quito, 13 Jan (EFE)--The Ecuadorean military government has withdrawn the warrant issued for the arrest of the director of the Guayaquil newspaper EXPRESO, Abelardo Garcia. Government Minister Rear Adm Victor Garces said today that this decision was made after it was learned that Garcia was in the United States at the time and had nothing to do with the publication last Thursday of an article which the government feels is offensive to the armed forces. However, the editor in chief of the paper in Quito, newsman Francisco Salazar, is still under arrest. On Friday Salazar was admitted to a clinic after becoming ill a few hours following his imprisonment in the Garcia Moreno jail in Quito.

Salazar's case is scheduled to come up before the Quito police intendant on Monday.

WITNESS SAYS JARRIN BEHIND MURDER OF CALDERON

PA122250Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 2038 GMT 12 Jan 79 PA

[Excerpts] Guayaquil, Ecuador, 12 Jan (EFE)--Police Maj Jaime Hermosa, aide to former Government Minister Gen Bolivar Jarrin, said today that it was Jarrin who masterminded the attack against former Ecuadorean presidential candidate Abdon Calderon, an attack which cost Calderon his life. In a statement before the judge who is hearing the case in Guayaquil, Hermosa confessed under oath that he was entrusted with paying off the person who acted as the contact (Abel Salazar, under arrest) and the material authors (Guillermo Mendez, under arrest, and Luis Garcia, wanted) after the attack, carried out on orders from the former minister. Salazar received almost $1,000, Garcia $3,000 and Mendez $2,000.

Calderon was shot on 29 November in Guayaquil and died 10 days later in a hospital in Miami, where he was taken in an unsuccessful attempt to save his life. Hermosa was involved in the investigation as a result of statements made by Gustavo Llerena, the principal prosecution witness, who was confidentially told of the incident by his friend, Guillermo Mendez, who drove the motorcycle used in the attack. In their statements, Llerena and Mendez accused two Guayaquil security police agents (under arrest), three police officers (free), former Minister Jarrin (free) and an unidentified group of generals.

The other police officers involved are, in addition to Hermosa, Capt Vinicio Penaherrera, director of political security in Guayaquil, and Col Jorge Narvaez, national director of political security. In spite of the fact that Mendez declared that the attack was only to intimidate the politician for his unrelenting opposition to the military government, partisan leaders believe that it was a plot to destroy the plan to reestablish democracy in Ecuador.

The Supreme Council of Government reaffirmed last night that it was not involved in the attack and emphasized its determination that civilian justice, as the independent branch that it is, solve the case and punish the guilty. It added that the plan for a return to a constitutional government is invincible and irreversible and that no one can prevent it.

JARRIN RUMORED TO HAVE LEFT COUNTRY

PA141602Y Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 14 Jan 79 PA

[Excerpts] The Ecuadorean military government, directly affected by a political crime committed by former Government Minister Gen Bolivar Jarrin, has decided to further promote the country's constitutional process and establish responsibilities in the attack.

Meanwhile, there has been a persistent rumor in the country that Jarrin has secretly left Ecuador after police Major Jaime Hermosa--his personal aide--yesterday publicly accused him of masterminding the attack in which former presidential candidate Abdon Calderon died. The rumor has not been denied.

Guayaquil's evening newspapers have published reports that Gen Bolivar Jarrin--who has been accused of ordering that money be paid to the assassins of Abdon Calderon--has left the country. The Ecuadorean news agency reported that Jarrin left the country last weekend. Other sources say that the former minister was seen in Quito as of Thursday. A person close to him said Jarrin is in the capital and has not left. Official sources have neither confirmed nor denied the reports.

SENATOR: PRESIDENT WILL NOT YIELD TO U.S. PRESSURE

FL122021Y Mexico City INFORMEX in Spanish 1833 GMT 12 Jan 79 FL

[Text] Mexico City, 11 Jan (INFORMEX)--In his upcoming meeting with the North American head of state, Lopez-Portillo will not yield to any kind of pressure aimed at adopting positions which would be harmful to Mexico, even if they come from the U.S. Congress itself. The statement was made by Senator Horacio Castellanos Countino, who added that the Mexican chief of state will have the support of all members of the Senate, as an institution and at the personal level.

The policy being followed by President Lopez-Portillo is directed at attaining the best positions in the international sphere for the country's economic development. "From that point of view it is obvious he will have the support we are able to give as a congress and plain citizens," he stressed. It must be pointed out, he added, that in that type of relation it is not a case of juridical procedure because the Mexican Congress has no direct participation, but it is political support; I feel it is very important that the president knows that he has the backing of another branch of government in continuing to set up the guidelines for economic policy, an effort we all know he has undertaken.

He stressed that in the face of possible pressures that might come up in the upcoming February meeting, "we must support him in whatever decision he chooses as the best path to follow in pulling the country out of the economic hole in which it finds itself today."

He opined that our future economic development, which is based on petroleum, is a very important factor, concerning which he has to act freely in a type of confrontation such as the one Lopez-Portillo and Jimmy Carter will have, and noted that there is also the possiblity of bringing up other factors, such as agriculture and the cattle industry. According to the plans it is following, he stressed, the executive branch can undertake a confrontation at an international level with the United States and any other country, knowing that it has the Mexican people's moral support and its institutions' political support.

"Independently of the results of the talks I feel that the attitude adopted by President Lopez-Portillo is very clear in not allowing or yielding to pressures which would harm the national economy, and I believe his position is very clear," he stated.

He indicated that Mexico has been enduring U.S. pressure, such as that experienced by our undocumented fellow citizens. "But, fortunately, our authorities have not accepted what could be called blackmail. In the face of this situation," the legislator added, "Mexico has maintained an honorable attitude, demanding better treatment for our fellow citizens."

"Being a case of a strong and to-the-point pressure, which deals with individuals and to which the government has not yielded, I believe he will not yield to any other type of pressures," he said in closing.

OIL TO BE SOLD TO SPAIN OVER FIVE-YEAR PERIOD

FL121948Y Mexico City INFORMEX in Spanish 1916 GMT 12 Jan 79 FL

[Text] Madrid, 11 Jan [as received] (INFORMEX)--Mexico will supply Spain with 5 million tons of crude oil over a 5-year period, Commerce and Tourism Minister Juan Antonia Garcia Diez announced today.

At a news conference called for the announcement of and on occasion of talks held here with Mexican Petroleum (PEMEX) Director Jorge Diaz Serrano, who also chaired the conference, the Spanish minister explained that it was an "agreement in principle" and that it would take effect late this year or in early 1980. He added that it was a "big operation, advantageous to relations between the two countries."

For Spain, he said, it means assuring the oil supply and for Mexico it means asserting its relations with Europe. Oil circles estimate that Spain will become a platform of penetration for Mexican products on this continent.

Diaz Serrano noted that "Mexico will have a field from which to project itself into northern Europe and southern France." He also announced that PEMEX will acquire 15 percent of the Spanish refinery PETRONOR.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Diaz Serrano said that Mexico does not believe it is necessary or appropriate to join the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and that it has no intention of following this or any other organization "which restricts the freedom of trading Mexican crude oil."

Regarding price difficulties in acquiring Mexican crude oil, the Spanish minister explained that the price difference favors Mexico, with an adequate utilization of freight charges and maritime transportation. [sentence as received] He likewise emphasized that increased future Spanish requirements are covered by Mexico.

During the news conference there was reference to the "existence" of a cooperation project in the petrochemical sector between Mexico and Spain.

GOVERNMENT, UK TO MEET WITH OPEC REPRESENTATIVES

FL131926Y Mexico City INFORMEX in Spanish 1857 GMT 13 Jan 79 FL

[Text] Mexico City, 12 Jan (INFORMEX)--Great Britain and Mexico will exchange viewpoints with four OPEC members, Dr Jesse Dickson Mabon, UK minister of state for energy, announced today. In a press conference with which he marked the end of a 5-day official visit to our country, the British official stated that the meeting will take place in London next March. He said Mexico will be represented by Mexican petroleum Director Jorge Diaz Serrano and Jose Andres de Oteyza Fernandez, secretary of patrimony and industrial development.

Representing OPEC will be Venezuela, Algeria, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. Norway and Canada will also attend the meeting. Dr. Mabon, who was accompanied by Sir Jack Rampton, permanent secretary of the British Energy Department, said that no agreements had been signed during his visit, that an exchange of viewpoints had taken place with Mexican officials, among them, that between Oteyza and Foreign Secretary Santiago Roel, within the framework of existing excellent British-Mexican relations.

He added that Great Britain is very much interested in Mexico's work in nuclear energy, for which he had offered his country's cooperation. Likewise, bearing in mind that the United Kingdom has gained vast experience in drilling for and exploitation of underwater petroleum fields, since its wells are located in the North Sea, British technology could be most useful to Mexico.

The British delegation will return home by air tomorrow, Saturday, after visiting Mexico at the invitation of the secretary of patrimony and industrial development.

ALGERIA INTERESTED IN GAS PIPELINE TECHNOLOGY

FL122053Y Mexico City INFORMEX in Spanish 1841 GMT 12 Jan 79 FL

[Text] Mexico City, 11 Jan (INFORMEX)--Algeria has expressed interest in obtaining Mexican technology for building gas pipelines in that country, Mexican Ambassador to Algeria Oscar Gonzalez stated today. He made the announcement at the conclusion of a meeting with President Jose Lopez-Portillo at the Los Pinos residence, noting that contacts have been made between the SONATRACH [Algeria's national company for the transport and marketing of hydrocarbons] state enterprise and Mexican Petroleum [PEMEX], so that technicians from the two countries study the possibility of exporting that technology, particularly for building gas pipelines in Algeria.

Because of the experience that has been gained, because supply and financing channels are open, because qualified personnel are available and because of the proved capability, it is possible for Mexico, for the first time, to cooperate and participate in building such projects. The diplomat said that SONATRACH technicians will arrive on 18 January to visit PEMEX installations and projects of the gas pipeline under construction, so that they may report on them to their country's government.

Oscar Gonzalez also said that he had reported to the president of the republic on the prevailing situation in that country following the death of President Boumediene, and that everything is calm in an atmosphere of work. He mentioned the existing possibilities of increasing trade and the upcoming visit of a Mexican parliamentary delegation to Algeria at the invitation of the people's National Assembly.

ARMY FINDS ARSENAL IN DOWNTOWN MEXICO CITY

PA131938Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1541 GMT 13 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 13 Jan (AFP)--It was unofficially reported here today that the Mexican Army has discovered an arsenal of weapons of various calibers in a building in downtown Mexico City. The newspaper EL SOL reported that the authorities seized thousands of weapons and cartridges of calibers .22, .38, 9-mm and .30-.30 from a clandestine warehouse.

UNO MAS UNO, another newspaper, noted that the army has been moving the weapons from the site since 10 January and that up to now it has taken out 7,000 pistols, 1,000 rifles, 500 shotguns, 700 machineguns, 1 million bullets and thousands of dynamite sticks.

The warehouse was located in a toy store which, until 1968, was a weapons storehouse. The government banned sales of weapons by private businesses in that year.

The boxes seemed to have come from the United States and Brazil because they carried "handle with care" signs on them in English and Portuguese.

The authorities have maintained complete silence regarding the case and have not revealed the origin or destination of the weapons.

PRESIDENT ROYO DISCUSSES PROJECTS FOR COLON PROVINCE

PA131215Y Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 12 Jan 79 PA

[Text] President Aristides Royo and Vice President Ricardo de la Espriella ended this afternoon the first stage of a national tour which began in Colon yesterday. The final portion of this 2-day presidential visit took place late this morning when the government presented, in the form of a number of announcements by the chief executive, an integrated plan for the development of Colon Province.

The extensive speech made by the president covered several matters of provincial and national interest. We now offer you those excerpts which we consider to be the most outstanding of President Royo's statements.

First of all, the president briefly analyzed the situation existing in Colon and in the country as follows: [begin recording] Many things will be lacking in the Province of Colon. They are lacking at this time. They will be lacking during this year and also in the years to come because this country lacks many resources. However, to the extent that the government, Colon society, the Panamanian society along with Colon, to the extent that the active forces, the sectors which make up this province--sectors of all classes, of all occupations, professions and vocations--devote themselves or, rather, as we all devote ourselves to work for the province in a united and joint manner--as I have seen happen in the 2 days that we have remained in this province--then many of the solutions will be provided by Colon, will be provided by Panamanian society as a whole within the framework of the classic expression of our revolutionary process--the union of people and government.

Therefore, in this brief introduction we wish to congratulate the people of Colon on this attitude which we have observed both in the business sectors, with which we have not been able to speak in an institutionalized manner during this visit, and we will do so at the labor, peasant, student and professional levels. [sentence as heard] We believe that the morale, the spirit at the level of the regional university center, the Colon branch of the Santa Maria University [does not complete sentence]... Let us hope that the spirit of Colon residents does not falter. This will depend on several factors. First of all, it will depend on a process of solidarity and unity in Colon, which we also advocate at the national level. It will depend on an absence of hatred, rancor and fighting among the various sectors which have the patriotic duty of contributing to the development of Colon Province.

Third, [as heard] it will also depend on the joint efforts which our government has to continue to carry out in Colon Province, on the ministers and directors of autonomous institutions, the president of the republic and the government team continuing to come to Colon as often as possible--and we announce right now that in February we will return--and on our continuation to work together for the province because to work for the province is also to work for the country. [end recording]

Referring to the reaction in certain sectors of the community to the presidential address of 1 January, Dr Aristides Royo said the following: [begin recording] [Sentence apparently in progress]...to say to the country in general that those comments which have resulted from our 1 January speech, comments to the effect that we promised many things and comments about what money we expect to use to carry out those things which we promised, we wish to take this opportunity here in Colon, the first stop on our national tour, to say that everything which was detailed in the 1 January speech will materialize because we promised in that speech only those things which we are capable of fulfilling. [end recording] Regarding decentralization, to bring about a better functioning of state apparatus, President Royo said: [begin recording] We are going to give more support to the provincial coordination council as well as to the technical board and to the honoralbe corregimiento representatives.

In addition, at the level of each ministry and each institution we plan to strengthen the technical team so that they will be able to do their duty without having to travel to Panama City.

We hope to apply the things that we are announcing for Colon Province in other provinces. We fervently believe in a decentralization that will lead to a better fulfillment of the functions of the state apparatus--decentralized at the level of each province. The more we avoid a trip to Panama City or the solution of problems in the capital city, the more we avoid internal migration. We are strengthening in this manner the instruments that are possessed by each state institution to do its work in each province. We are supporting in this manner the organization and the resolution of the problems of each province within each of the country's administrative and territorial divisions. [end recording]

One point of President Royo's speech which received special attention was the reference to the position of the labor sector, about which Dr Royo said: [begin recording] Regarding the position of the labor sector, we wish to highlight certain things. We have created a national labor commission. However, this national labor commission--as we explained to the members of the labor sector with whom we spoke yesterday--is primarily a consultation mechanism. It is made up of representatives of the labor unions, representatives of private enterprise and representatives of the state. It is headed by Labor Minister Oyden Ortega.

However, it is a consultation mechanism because, when the commissions do their jobs, and to the extent that they do their jobs, they consult at the provincial level with the various labor unions. In other words, the national labor commission must answer to the various units which make up Panamanian labor and business sectors.

We will have a commission that will prepare as soon as possible--within 1 to 3 months--special legislation for the free zone, special legislation covering aspects of industrial development and fiscal and labor matters. This commission will be made up of the ministers of finance and treasury, commerce and industries, planning and economic policy and labor and the manager of the free zone. We hope that you, gentlemen, will also consult as necessary with the various sectors involved in the development of the free zone. It is a government commission. That is why the commission does not include representatives of other organizations which, however, will be duly consulted.

We have asked that commission to give a report within 3 months and that, within its functions, it also try to study the matter of the generation of jobs and that it not disregard the concerns of the worker regarding legislation of this type--that the labor sector also be consulted. [end recording]

During his presentation the president of the republic announced that a special credit had been authorized for the expansion of the Colon Free Zone. He said: [begin recording] The executive organ has authorized a special credit of 3.2 million balboas for the expansion of the free zone. This supplements the 5.3 million balboas which have already been allocated in the public investment budget for 1979. We note that those funds will allow expansion of the free zone plan for 1979 by making possible the expansion of the area alloted to it in the city of Colon, the construction of warehouses in the Old France field area and public works to promote the free zone. We also announce that under no circumstances will the Mariano Bula Stadium be used for the expansion of the free zone. [applause] [end recording]

Regarding the rational and organized use that should be given to the lands and installations on the Atlantic side of the Canal Zone, President Royo said: [begin recording] Yesterday, during our visit, a distinguished newswoman, Luz Maria Noli, briefly questioned us regarding the importance which we attributed to the free zone, excuse me, rather which we attributed to the visit to the Canal Zone.

We answered, perhaps on a rather personal plane, that we had not been aware of the complexity or the number of things which are contained in the Atlantic sector of the Canal Zone. One of the things which we noted in yesterday's visit was the large amount of lands that are very close, adjacent to the present free zone. Thus, there would be no justification for taking sites from the city of Colon, which is the small Manzanillo [Bay] island. We will have more than enough land in the Canal Zone and it is a matter of waiting another 9 months in order to develop the free zone in the area which the free zone really needs. Many other installations which presently could not fit into the city of Colon will be established on the lands of the Canal Zone, those which the U.S. government will return to the Republic of Panama under the Torrijos-Carter treaties.

What we do not wish to do at this time is say just where those installations will be located, what sites they will occupy. For that purpose there is an entity called the canal authority, which is headed by Gabriel Lewis Galindo. There is a commission of the canal authority here in Colon, headed by Nislon Espino, which will devote itself to study and to orderly and rational planning in order to achieve the best possible use of the sites, installations and structures which will revert to our country. [end recording]

Regarding the possibilities of making Colon a free port, President Royo explained the government's position as follows: [begin recording] Given the interest of the business sectors in perfecting and expanding business opportunities, our government will soon contract a consultative firm to carry out studies regarding the feasibility of making Colon a free port. This does not mean that the free port is coming. It does not mean that on the basis of four or five arguments the government is going to launch itself into a free port venture. We Panamanians must know just what a free port really is, what a free port means, in order to reach a decision, which will involve consultation with all the sectors of Colon, not just the business sectors. We will consult with government sectors, professionals, students and labor in order that, if some day the free port becomes a reality, it will be the result of a need of Colon, for Colon, and because Colon accepts it. We are already accepting bids. Six consulting firms have been qualified. The calendar has already been set for 1 July. As soon as it has been determined which consulting firm will win the bidding to study the project, that firm will have until 1 July to turn over to the government a study on the implications of the installation of a free port in Colon.

We promise that when we have the study in our hands we will personally come to Colon and we will organize a provincial-level discussion on the study given to us by whichever consulting firm wins the bidding.

Regarding the national government's obligations toward the Chaparral vacation center, the president said the following: [begin recording] On the other hand, we wish to announce that we will have a sum of money available for the completion of the installations of the Chaparral vocational [as heard] center, which carries the name of the father of our illustrious predecessor, Demetrio Basilio Lakas. This is the Basilio Lakas vacation center. We will do this if we can achieve a commitment, which we plan to do during a meeting with businessmen and representatives of civic organizations based in Colon. We promise, as the government, to complete the works which have already involved an investment, in the form of the purchase of the installations there. The government will complete them and turn them over to private enterprise, to the free zone businessmen and to the civic organizations which want to participate in order that they may later give the project substance and take care of its maintenance and in conjunction with the state, develop different programs there. In other words, the government builds it and turns it over and then the civic organizations develop it--Rotarians, Lions' Club, Rotarians, as well as popular civic organizations--participate so that Colon can say with pride that it maintains that vacation center which should not, which has no reason to be maintained with state resources. [end recording]

President Royo ended his 33-minute speech with the following words: [begin recording] We want to say that all the things, absolutely everything which we have promised in our speech, will be fulfilled. Help us to bring them about by maintaining this spirit which has prevailed in the meetings held yesterday and today, maintaining this high spirit of devotion to Colon, maintaining this spirit of solidarity which you have demonstrated. Let us continue in this way and, whenever we make proposals for Colon let us say that Colon is not the forgotten province. We are studying, we are planning and we are trying to have the development of Colon become an example for all the provinces in the country. One way or another, we can say that by helping Colon we are building and helping the fatherland. [end recording]

OMAR TORRIJOS CONSULTED ON ISABEL PERON CASE

PA130437Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 2011 GMT 12 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Buenos Aires, 12 Jan (EFE)--The efforts made to get the Panamanian Government to request the Argentine Government to release Peron's widow mark the beginning of an attempt to "continentalize" the "Isabel case."

The head of the "operation" is the president's former attorney, Ciorge Arriola, who believes that "the situation involving Maria Estela Martinez de Peron is stalemated."

Peron's widow is now confined in a country villa in the Vicente Lopez residential district of Buenos Aires. She had been confined for 22 months at a naval arsenal located in the middle of Buenos Aires Province.

Maria Estela Martinez de Peron's attorney recently met with Gen Omar Torrijos in Panama City. On his return to Buenos Aires he expressed optimism about the results of his meeting.

Torrijos apparently agreed to "continentalize" the "Isabel case," that is to say, to win the support of other friendly countries to obtain the release of the arrested former president, who was overthrown by the armed forces on 24 March 1976.

According to Arriola, the Panamanian leader even offered asylum to Peron's widow under generous conditions because of his friendship with former President Juan Peron and the friendship of Mrs Torrijos with the widow of the "Justicialist" leader.

Other reports indicate that the defense attorney did not fare as well with the Peronist leaders as he did with Torrijos, since the more strict and orthodox Peronists are "resentful" because Arriola acted on his own without consulting party leaders.

Besides, these sectors do not look favorably upon the more or less remote possibility of the former president's exit from the country because, they say, it would go against party unity.

Gen Jorge Videla's military regime has not acknowledged Omar Torrijos' involvement in any way. Observers have promptly insinuated that the Argentine Government is little, if at all, inclined to negotiate, even unofficially, the "Isabel case," within an international framework.

COSTA RICA

REPORTS OF U.S. PRESSURE TO SUPPRESS FSLN ACTIVITY DENIED

PA150142Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1915 GMT 14 Jan 79 PA

[Text] San Jose, 14 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--The Costa Rican Government has emphatically denied reports originating in the United States according to which Washington had exerted pressure on President Rodrigo Carazo's administration to clamp down on Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] guerrillas. A U.S. magazine reported that William Bowdler, a member of the international mediation commission which is trying to solve Nicaragua's political crisis, had visited Costa Rica for that purpose.

President Rodrigo Carazo said that the report is "false and smacks of yellow journalism. We do not accept pressures and, in addition, that would constitute the intervention of one country in the affairs of another," he said.

Foreign Minister Rafael Angel Calderon said that it is absolutely false that there have been any threats or pressure to clamp down. "The relations between Costa Rica and the United States have always been based on great mutual respect and Costa Rica would not accept insinuations of threats or pressure," Calderon said.

Meanwhile, the Costa Rican Government has instructed its ambassadors to the United Nations and the OAS to deny these rumors, which have circulated in New York and Washington.

FINANCE MINISTER EXPLAINS PLANNED BUDGET SAVINGS

PA130428Y San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 9 Jan 79 p 2-A PA

[Text] Finance Minister Hernan Saenz explained what the government's austerity plan for 1979 will be.

At least 708 million colones are expected to be saved during the next 12 months, as the official explained.

Saenz noted that "in 1978 we obtained a budget savings of 832.3 million colones, a figure which we have estimated on the basis of spending up to 30 November 1978. [quotation marks as published] The December spending was estimated on the basis of what had been requested up to 18 December and the actual spending in September, October and November.

To obtain this data, we went to the source of the funds, which is a quick and rather secure method of reckoning even though it does not detail expenses by ministries or by the kind of spending through which savings may be obtained.

The year 1979 will be a year of fiscal austerity during which we plan to make maximum use of available resources so that it will be possible to effect the government's plans and even obtain a high amount of savings.

This year's budget reductions are composed of savings in two kinds of spending: One is direct spending, which includes spending by the various ministries and government agencies in their daily operations, and the other is spending through other agencies which receive part or all of their funds from the state by means of subsidies and transfers. This is known as indirect spending.

Also, some of the budget savings planned for 1979 are savings on new job openings and vacancies which will not be filled, as well as part of the service of the debt which will not have to be touched and unused funds resulting from the normal operations of the government which do not allow all approved spending to be used for mere institutional reasons. [sentence as published]

Following is a detail of the savings:

Central government (1979 budget savings)

Direct spending	266.4	million colones
Indirect spending	268.3	million colones
Service of the public debt	40	million colones
New job openings	50	million colones
Vacancies	30	million colones
Unused funds	53.4	million colones
Overall total	708.1	million colones

In addition to the aforementioned savings, the budget will be followed only to the extent or at the rate that current revenue and sound financing allow. Thus, we will reach an overall savings of betwen 800 million and 1 billion colones.

EL SALVADOR

KIDNAPED DOCTOR RELEASED BY FRAP, ORT

PA132009Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1503 GMT 13 Jan 79 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 13 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--Dr Manuel Antonio Bonilla Cornejo, who was kidnaped here on 28 December by the People's Revolutionary Armed Forces (FRAP) and the Workers Revolutionary Organization (ORT), was released here last night. It was learned today that in exchange for the release the two leftist groups yesterday demanded the delivery of blueprints of the San Jacinto cableway owned by Bonilla Cornejo's father and details of the revenue and expenditures of that tourist enterprise, which operates outside San Salvador. It was reported unofficially that a large ransom was paid, but circles close to the family said that the condition set for the release was delivery of the blueprints and the financial report on the cableway.

BRIEFS

MEXICAN TECHNICAL AID--Salvadoran Labor and Welfare Minister Roberto Escobar Garcia announced today that with Mexico's technical aid, El Salvador will establish social security systems initially aimed at protecting and providing medical attention for 500,000 people. A group of Mexican Social Security Institute experts has already visited El Salvador in connection with this project. [Mexico City International Service in Spanish 0305 GMT 12 Jan 79 PA]

HONDURAS

49 SANDINISTS TO BE DEPORTED TO PANAMA

PA121817Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1602 GMT 12 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 12 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--The Honduran Foreign Ministry reported here today that in the next few days it will deport to Panama 49 Nicaraguan youths identified as guerrillas of Nicaragua's Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN].

The FSLN members were captured by army troops in the past few months in Honduran territory while training to return to fight in Nicaragua. It was reported that many of them are youths, including several girls, who have been treated well at the installations of the 11th Infantry Battalion in the southern Honduran Department of Choluteca, on the border with Nicaragua.

The Honduran Foreign Ministry said that it is only waiting for the Panamanian Air Force to send a plane to pick up the Sandinists, who have been held for a long time due to the slow action of various countries in giving them political asylum. The Foreign Ministry apparently tried to get Mexico, Venezuela and Panama to give them political asylum, but the first two countries never replied. Panama had previously refused to receive any more Sandinists and its acceptance of the 49 guerrillas was a very slow process.

Honduras has deported almost 150 Nicaraguan guerrillas. It is unofficially estimated that a similar number are still being held.

EDITORIAL SCORES PN MANEUVERS ON ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL

PA121730Y San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 5 Jan 79 p 6 PA

[Editorial: "Now That the Electoral Tribunal Has Been Taken, What Else?"]

[Text] The National Electoral Tribunal (TNE) is the highest authority in the electoral process. This high-level organization is composed of representatives of political parties and the government. Thus, the election results are directly related to the interests of the tribunal's members.

Consequently, for the parties and the government, the electoral organization is a battle-front and one of the most important ones, the one that reaches decisions in accordance with the law written to win the battle on deferred terms which will be materialized through the election results.

The "aprocryphal" memorandum says so.

And since the tribunal is not an apolitical organization, there is an open struggle to dominate it, to seize it and turn it into a bastion favorable to a political cause.

The "apocryphal" memorandum mentions a pact with a party, evidently not one of the new ones or the Liberal Party. It speaks of a strategy and the necessary measures to assure the results of the election.

With four parties represented in the TNE, although it was possible to dominate it, it was not as easy as it would have been if one of the new parties were eliminated. The National Party [PN], aware of this, directed the heaviest assault of its abundant arsenal, an arsenal accumulated through many decades of experience in trickery and in turning red into blue, in this direction.

It discovered that the control of the TNE would be easier to achieve by eliminating Christian Democracy because that way, instead of two sure votes or possibly one more, it would have three and the opposition would be reduced to impotency.

It has won the battle. All that is needed is its legal ratification. That is why it has resorted to the Supreme Court.

What is the significance of this National Party victory?

With three votes on its side, decisions will all go its way from the moment that the Supreme Court names another representative to replace the Christian Democrat.

This stacking of the highest electoral organization is fundamental for the final settlement of any charges of fraud or any other charges against the tactics which have long been used to "insure the election results."

In politics, each side knows where to go to take power.

The adversary must be eliminated if possible before it is born or consolidated. And a very favorable occasion is at the moment of registration.

The law is designed to eliminate right there all organizations with the desire to become a legally established party. The electoral law was passed with the last-minute modifications of the National Party. With a sure hand and enjoying all kinds of privileges, it is now producing the desired results. The first is the domination of the TNE.

This all shows that the authors of the famous "aprocyphal" memorandum have already found a party with which to ally and that after the seizure of the TNE everything else will proceed smoothly toward very certain results.

What rights do the other parties have? One will be the right to jump on the bandwagon. The other, which manliness advises, is to struggle to make it impossible to hold elections "Honduran style."

There is no place for resignation here where the law has been distorted. The loser resigns when he has lost in a fair battle and only then.

PINU DENIES FORMING ELECTORAL ALLIANCE WITH PN

PA130155Y San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 6 Jan 79 p 4 PA

[Excerpt] Dr Miguel Andonie Fernandez, national delegate of the Innovation and Unity Party (PINU), denied yesterday that there is a National Party [PN]-PINU axis for the next electoral campaign. "It is completely false. On many occasions we have been insulted and grossly accused of things for which we are in no way responsible," he said.

He explained that so far the PINU has acted in accordance with its views. "Each step that we have taken has been discussed by the majority of the leaders. They have not been limited decisions, but decisions made at the broadest level," he added. "But there is no connection with any party. We are not linked here with the Liberal Party, Christian Democracy or the PN," Dr Fernandez noted.

"The truth is that so far we have not made any alliance. Neither is that something we can avoid: Alliances might be made at any given moment. At this point we have not decided to ally with any one party, but it could happen that the PINU might be forced into that situation in the near future," the politician indicated.

BRIEFS

BORDER OBSERVER APPOINTED--Foreign Minister Roberto Palma Galvez announced last night that Danilo Cardona has been appointed to the OAS civilian observers commission, which will operate on both sides of the Costa Rican-Nicaraguan border for the purpose of preventing future armed clashes between those two countries. Cardona had been holding the post of first secretary of the Honduran Embassy in Washington. It is not yet known who will replace him. [San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 9 Jan 79 p 10 PA]

NICARAGUA

SOMOZA BLAMES CARTER POLICY FOR FOREIGN INTERFERENCE

PA141415Y Managua Estacion X in Spanish 2355 GMT 13 Jan 79 PA

[Speech by Nicaraguan President Anastasio Somoza Debayle at inauguration of Provisional Civic Center in Managua on 13 January--recorded]

[Excerpts] Your Excellencies Ministers of State; Honorable Presidents and Directors of autonomous institutions; Your Excellencies Ambassadors present here; dear friends accompanying me today as we inaugurate the Provisional Civic Center; radio listeners of the entire nation:

It is a real pleasure for me to come before you this morning to inaugurate this complex of buildings called the Provisional Civil Center. This event practically brings to an end the emergency reconstruction plan implemented after the earthquake. It was my idea to gather together again all the services of the state in one place that was easily accessible to the citizens, while at the same time being functional so that the bureaucrat who serves you might do his job with greater efficiency and, above all, with the dexterity that will produce results for the Nicaraguan people. That is why I feel proud to come here today to inaugurate this civic center. With this ceremony, my government and the Nationalist Liberal Party [PLN] are demonstrating to the entire country the efficient manner in which [words indistinct] and will give service to the public, which constitutes the Nicaraguan nation. [applause]

Gentlemen, ever since we wiped out the communist guerrillas in the northeastern part of the country and the Carter administration took over the Government of the United States, the human rights policy has influenced Nicaraguan politics, hemispheric politics.

Because we have openly and fearlessly supported republican government and individual rights of the citizenry and opposed oppressive communism, we have felt the hand of Fidel Castro, who has been constantly trying to introduce subversion and establish a communist dictatorship in Nicaragua by force of arms.

For this reason, because of this human rights policy of the U.S. Government, other countries like Venezuela, Panama and Costa Rica have tried to interfere in Nicaragua's internal affairs, believing that because the Yankees have closed their eyes they are going to come in and do as they please in Nicaragua at the expense of the Nicaraguan people. [applause]

No sir, they will not succeed in any of this. As president, I will permit none of this, and none of this is going to take place because the National Guard, supported by the people in general, will know how to defend our national sovereignty against the intervention of those persons who want to bring chaos and destruction to Nicaragua. [applause]

I have always said that the path of discussion is a two-way street. No one has everything on his side. For this reason, by using international means we have been able to get the Organization of American States to appoint observers to Costa Rica to prevent the continuation of incursions by the bad sons of Nicaragua, thereby guarding the border and allowing us to forget about the threat of a revolution from Costa Rica that would disrupt the peace of the Nicaraguans. [applause]

It has been through diplomatic maneuvers, through the ability of our Foreign Ministry, that we have succeeded in replacing the deterrent of an army and bullets with the proper instruments to which Nicaragua is signatory, and now we have only one thing left to settle.

Liberals and Nicaraguans of good will must reconcile Nicaragua's internal front, which is being disrupted not by idealistic youths but rather by individuals who can properly be described as bandits. Persons who destroy the sources of employment are bandits; those who leave the poor people without work by causing fire and destruction are bandits. [applause]

I want the working people who are here in front of me today, who today are working in the coffee plantations in southern and northern Nicaragua, who are harvesting the cotton in the east and west, who sweat under this prolific [as heard] tropical sun to stop, think and realize that only devastation and poverty can come from destructive violence while constructive policies can create well-being and peace for the Nicaraguan people. [applause]

And I want these citizens who work from dawn to dusk to earn their bread honestly; all citizens to put in their place those irresponsible persons who are not only attacking them, but also the very future of their families because, gentlemen, a country which does not produce has no food and no well-being for the great masses of people. [applause]

Once again, therefore, I wish appeal to all Nicaraguans to seek peace, to forget the bitterness and build the fatherland because the government and the Liberal Party have taken all the necessary steps to [word indistinct] to demonstrate to the adversary that we are interested in the welfare of all Nicaraguans. We are prepared to forget the crimes of the past in order to turn to the page of glory and peace for Nicaraguans. [applause]

I speak with knowledge, I speak with conviction and patriotic fervor because in none of our cities in which the adversary has come face to face with the forces of Liberalism, with the forces of the National Guard, has the adversary come out ahead. At no time have they defeated us, and as the victors we have to be magnanimous and offer them a silver platter for national conciliation. But if they do not want this, they will have to suffer defeat and we will have to resign ourselves to establishing peace among the Nicaraguan people. [applause]

Peace is essential for the well-being of all Nicaraguans. We are now trying to see that each and every person enjoys the guarantees provided by our political constitution. There are forces that are trying to have these guarantees abolished. But, gentlemen, let us maintain our faith in peace. Let us support the constitution and let us maintain the greatest achievement of the Nicaraguan people--the Liberal constitution, which guarantees to every last man in Nicaragua the full right to become president or at least a citizen imbued with dignity and honor. [applause]

Very few countries possess the genuine equality that exists here in Nicaragua. That is why I am proud to be the president of the Nicaraguans because I have felt--every place that I have been I have found a man who openly states and explains what he feels, and when men speak, things are resolved. When men do not speak, things become complicated; when men fight, things become painful. [applause]

On this day, I wish to make an appeal to the PLN because the mediation commission has returned unexpectedly with a proposal that we will study at the party level to decide whether or not it is acceptable and whether it is in accord with the political constitution of the republic.

However, I do wish to say to the Liberals: We have secured the southern border; let us secure the internal border and let us give peace and security to the Nicaraguan people. Thank you very much.

FAO LEADER RETURNS FROM U.S., COMMENTS ON MEDIATION

PA121507Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0526 GMT 12 Jan 79 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 11 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--Upon his return from the United States today, Alfonso Robelo Callejas stated that the topic of the plebiscite proposed by the OAS mediation commission as a means for a peaceful solution to the Nicaraguan political crisis has been exhausted and that the OAS mission has failed in that regard. Robelo Callejas went to the United States to query State Department officials about the progress of the mediation being carried out by U.S. Guatemalan and Dominican diplomats.

Robelo said the U.S. Government is not aware of how urgent it is to find a solution to the Nicaraguan problem in order to stop the bloodshed. He added that the Americans could not make Somoza submit to the simple verdict of the people, who have repeatedly expressed their desire by telling him in various ways to leave.

The leader of the Nicaraguan Democratic Movement and member of the Political Committee of the Broad Opposition Front, which participated in the conciliatory negotiations, reaffirmed that the formula proposed by the mediation commission could have been the formula that might have solved the national crisis.

Robelo said that he was told in Washington that U.S. representative William Bowdler and Guatemalan representative Alfredo Obiols of the international commission will come to Nicaragua again tomorrow. The third commission member, Dominican Foreign Minister Ramon Emilio Jimenez, will remain in his country. The purpose of the visit was unknown among opposition circles although it was speculated that it could serve as a last effort to make President Somoza and his adversaries yield in their positions. The visit comes at a time when the mission's final report to the OAS is believed to be completed. Apparently, the commission members decided to make the visit on their own initiative.

Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Julio C. Quintana said at the beginning of the week that the government was not planning on calling the international mediators. However, he added: if they want to come, let them come, but we will not call them.

MEDIATORS MAKE FINAL PROPOSAL TO SOMOZA, OPPOSITION

PA131330Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Managua--The international mediation commission yesterday submitted its final proposal to both sides. The commission made some concessions but it maintained the key point that caused President Somoza to reject the proposal presented on 20 December. At that time, Somoza described the mediators' plan to have an international authority directly supervise the plebiscite as intervention. In yesterday's proposal the mediation commission urged the establishment of a national authority for the plebiscite that would be carefully and systematically supervised and observed by the international authority for the plebiscite.

MEDIATORS HOLD TALKS WITH FAO; MEETING WITH SOMOZA PLANNED

PA122330Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2200 GMT 12 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 12 Jan (LATIN)--The international mediation commission which is searching for a solution to the Nicaraguan domestic crisis met for 3 hours today with the Political Committee of the Broad Opposition Front [FAO] and will meet with President Anastasio Somoza later today.

After the meeting, which was held at the Dominican Embassy, opposition delegates Rafael Cordoba Rivas, Alfonso Robelo Callejas and Luis Sanchez Sancho said that the FAO had maintained unchanged the position that it assumed at the end of December and that the mediation commission members had only listened.

Our position is that the last proposal of the mediation commission, that is, to hold a plebiscite under the control of an international organization to determine whether Somoza should or should not remain in the government and the series of guarantees contained in that proposal, should not be changed, said Robelo Callejas.

The commission members refused to comment: U.S. representative William Bowdler merely told the journalists that we have come to continue our conciliatory efforts. No comment.

The opposition delegates said that the commission had not suggested any changes to its proposal, as had been affirmed in political circles in Managua.

Alfredo Obiols, from Guatemala, said that the commission will meet with President Somoza today. Dominican Foreign Minister Ramon Emilio Jimenez remained in Santo Domingo to make preparations for the arrival of Pope John Paul II. The Dominican Republic is being represented on the commission by Vice Foreign Minister Pedro Padilla Tonos.

OPPOSITION SAYS MEDIATORS' NEW PROPOSAL FAVORS SOMOZA

PA131839Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1537 GMT 13 Jan 79 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 13 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--Spokesmen of the Nicaraguan opposition said today that the international mediation process to solve the country's political crisis has become endless and it favors only President Anastasio Somoza's interests now. According to the opposition, the tripartite mediation commission sent by the OAS presented another proposal to President Somoza's Nationalist Liberal Party last night which "basically" changed the "final proposal" that the mediators had presented here on 20 December. The main difference in the new proposal is the way in which the plebiscite--to determine if President Somoza will remain in power--will be carried out.

The Broad Opposition Front [FAO] held a meeting yesterday afternoon to analyze the new proposal of the mediation commission. At the meeting the FAO agreed to submit the document to a process of consultation, but there were some at the meeting who felt that the FAO should withdraw from the mediation process immediately.

Alfonso Robelo Callejas, leader of the Nicaraguan Democratic Movement and member of FAO's Political Committee, said that the new proposal by the mediation commission has caused alarm and uneasiness among the Nicaraguan opposition. He stressed that the conciliators had already made their "final proposal" on 20 December 1978 and that, therefore, there was no room for any more changes to that proposal. "The mediation commission is being too firm [as received] and has backed down in view of Somoza's intransigence," the opposition leader added.

He noted that the mediators have come up with a proposal at a time when repression has increased and as the jails are being filled with political prisoners.

"The fact that the mediation's achievements, such as the restoration of constitutional guarantees, are still in effect comes to no good when a labor leader such as Luis Medrano is killed," he added.

"The mediators' new proposal is untimely and also unacceptable," he said. In addition, Robelo noted that Somoza is favored by the new proposal presented by the international mediation commission because it has become an endless process that amounts to opposition to the Nicaraguan people's struggle.

Meanwhile, the newspaper NOVEDADES, owned by President Somoza, published the text of the new proposal and a front page headline which stresses that intervention in Nicaragua has been recognized.

MANAGUA POLICE ARREST KILLER OF LABOR UNION LEADER

PA130301Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0103 GMT 13 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 13 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--The Managua police arrested Mario Jose Perez Rodriguez today on the charge of murdering union leader Luis Medrano on the night of Tuesday, 9 January in the eastern sector of the city.

Perez Rodriguez told journalists that he is not a member of the police or of any paramilitary force and that he used a rifle which he had taken from the 13th Police Precinct, the chief of which, Sgt Alberto Gutierrez, is his personal friend. The prisoner said that he was traveling in a red jeep with two other persons and that when he saw Medrano, secretary general of the Confederation for Unity of Trade Unions [CUS], distributing leaflets promoting participation in ceremonies to commemorate the first anniversary of the violent death of opposition leader Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, he wanted to frighten Medrano by firing into the air.

"The shot had no other intention but I cannot explain why the bullet took another direction and killed him." Pere Rodriguez said. He refused to identify his two companions.

This statement is contrary to the one made by another CUS member who was with Medrano. The CUS member said that the three men were riding in a red station wagon which they parked near Medrano on a busy street in the "Salvadorita" section. He added that the attacker stepped out of the car and the others shouted to him, "that's him, shoot him," which he did.

Nicolas Valle Salinas, commander of the Managua police, said that Perez Rodriguez will be turned over to a civilian court tomorrow and that his companions will be captured by his agents at any moment.

HAVANA REPORTS COMPOSITION OF NATIONAL PATRIOTIC FRONT

PA150321Y Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Several groups which are part of the Nicaraguan Broad Opposition Front have considered the U.S. mediation efforts in Nicaragua to be exhausted and have decided to join the recently established National Patriotic Front, which promotes the complete elimination of Anastasio Somoza's dictatorship. It was also reported that the National Patriotic Front plenum has approved the new group's program, which will be signed in a public ceremony to be held in the near future.

The organization is made up of the United People's Movement, the Group of 12, the Independent Liberal Party, the Union of Radio News Broadcasters of Nicaragua, the Union of Nicaraguan Workers and Conservative sectors.

Meanwhile, it was learned that the Sandinist National Liberation Front has staged successful military operations in Santa Rosa del Penon and the cities of Tisma and Leon.

UN AMBASSADOR DENOUNCES OVERTHROWN KAMPUCHEAN REGIME

Sihanouk Assailed

FL131423Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 13 Jan 79 FL

[Text] At the United Nations Cuba has charged that former head of state Prince Norodom Sihanouk has betrayed the people of Kampuchea. Sihanouk alleges he represents the overthrown regime of Pol Pot and Ieng Sary.

Using the right to reply, Cuban Ambassador to the United Nations Raul Roa Kouri recalled that Sihanouk had acknowledged the genocide practiced by the deposed administration, which in fact invalidates him as a representative. He added that after having admitted that he had been held under house arrest, incommunicado, and had endured humiliation and outrages, he has to be very submissive or lacking all moral values to come to this body to represent his own jailers.

The Cuban representative stated that Sihanouk lacks moral authority because he associates himself with and represents a deposed tyranny whose depredations and atrocities have been admitted and confessed to by Sihanouk himself. After indicating that Pol Pot's emissary is an aristocrat, a man of an easy life and a great lord--as he has described himself--Raul Roa Kouri added: The attacks against the Cuban Revolution do not surprise me. If they would have come from a combatant, then it would be a matter for discussion. They come from an aristocrat, an exploiter, a man who has always lived an easy and fraudulent life, which is why they do not deserve further consideration.

Security Council Action 'Unjustified'

FL121311Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 12 Jan 79 FL

[Text] At the United Nations Cuba has impugned former Kampuchean leader Norodom Sihanouk as the representative of the overthrown regime of Pol Pot and Ieng Sary, and called the Security Council decision to examine the situation in Kampuchea unjustified. Raul Roa Kouri, Cuban ambassador to the maximum international organization, has stated that the request, which served as the reason for calling the council to meet, came from an administration which ceased to exist 4 days ago. He called Sihanouk a questionable personality, who was under the control of the tyranny enthroned by his Maoist friends and who now comes to the Security Council with letters stamped by his own jailer, Ieng Sary.

COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER CLOSES EFFICIENCY MEETING

FL121246Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 12 Jan 79 FL

[Text] The national meeting on economy in the Communications Ministry has ended in Havana City following the adoption of 78 agreements to improve economic efficiency at the various enterprises. The meeting which directors and economic chiefs in the Communications Ministry attended discussed various topics such as planning, accounting, statistics, finance and the scientific organization of work to provide better services and achieve better economic yields in various enterprises in this ministry. The conclusions of the national meeting on economy were made by Pedro Guelmes, member of the PCC Central Committee and minister of communications, who extensively analyzed the work done and pointed out the aspects to be improved during the present year. The minister stressed the importance of economic considerations and, in regards to quality of services, he stated the following:

[Begin Guelmes recording] I repeat, the fundamental [point] is quality of services because we can have 30,000 telephone lines, more or less, but those that we do have must work well. We can deliver 3 million or 10 million letters, more or less, but those that are delivered must arrive on time. The same is true for telegrams, and also for the quality of radio broadcasts, the delivery of newspapers and the quality of television. In sum, we do not want, as is often said, to cover a lot and offer little. We want to be able to say that we always keep problems of quality in mind. [end recording]

POLITBURO MEMBERS CHAIR EVALUATION MEETING

FL131952Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1902 GMT 13 Jan 79 FL

[Text] PCC Politburo members Ramiro Valdes Menendez and Pedro Miret Prieto this morning chaired an evaluation meeting held by the State Committee for Construction at the Communications Ministry auditorium. During the meeting the most outstanding technical accomplishments of 1978 were announced, and the guidelines for 1979 were outlined.

Levi Farah, minister president of the state committee, stated in his report that nearly 700 workers of the committee had fulfilled the year's program by 96 percent. During the meeting, which was also chaired by numerous ministers, vice ministers, officials and leaders of the party and trade union sector, diplomas and awards were presented to outstanding workers.

Farah referred to the technical standards and specifications to be observed on the different activities dealing with the construction of projects. Those technical standards and specifications are guidelines for the constructive sequence of the projects and a foundation for improvement and quality control. He noted the importance of the rationalization conducted in the Giron construction systems as well as in industrial and agricultural projects, by means of which the number of prefabricated elements is determined. In the Giron system, he stressed, the prefabricated components were reduced from 947 to 292, a measure which represents a savings of about 5 million pesos per year.

Farah pointed out that the problem of quality, without ignoring the aesthetic aspect, must be considered to be an important economic issue. The meeting began with a speech by Hugo Conde, who, on behalf of the construction workers trade union, referred to the importance of starting the special emulation in the State Committee for Construction. During the meeting diplomas and awards were presented to Eng Maximiliano (Isoba) as the most outstanding technical worker and to Joaquin Gonzalez and Pablo Roque, one a basic and the other an auxiliary worker. The work of the State Committee for Construction is strengthening, is becoming bigger and more profound, Levi Farah stated in closing.

STATE, PARTY LEADERS TOUR LAS TUNAS CONSTRUCTION SITES

FL131641Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1517 GMT 13 Jan 79 FL

[Text] Construction Minister Jose Lopez Moreno and Faure Chomon Mediavilla, member of the PCC Central Committee and first party secretary in Las Tunas Province, have toured the glass container factory, metal structures plants and a hospital under construction in Las Tunas. At the glass container factory, which will produce some 300 [types of] bottles, the visitors expressed interest in the progress of the project, which is only 19-percent. complete and which is scheduled to begin operations by next year's end. Afterward, Chomon and Lopez Moreno went to the welded metal structures plant, which is 45-percent complete.

At the obstetrical-clinical-surgical minihospital under construction in Las Tunas, the project foreman, Felix Silvestre, reported that it is 67-percent complete and will have a 600-bed capacity.

CHILDHOOD DAY HONORARY COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED

FL131333Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 13 Jan 79 FL

[Text] The honorary committee for the Childhood Day main event has been established, headed by Vilma Espin, member of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Federation of Cuban Women. The membership of the various working committees was also designated. Vilma Espin stated that the celebration of International Childhood Day has a special importance on this occasion because, at the initiative of the UN General Assembly, 1979 has been declared International Year of the Child.

UPEC HOLDS PROVINCIAL PLENUM IN MATANZAS

FL121853Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 12 Jan 79 FL

[Text] The third provincial plenary session of the Union of Cuban Journalists [UPEC] in Matanzas was chaired by Julian Rizo Alvarez, member of the PCC Central Committee and first party secretary in Matanzas Province. The meeting approved the work plans for 1979 and examined last year's accomplishments. The closing remarks were made by UPEC Secretary General Ernesto Vera.

MONGOLIAN LEADER HONORS CUBAN AMBASSADOR

FL121457Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1432 GMT 12 Jan 79 FL

[Text] The top Mongolian leader, Yumjaagiyn Tsedenbal, has presented the Order of the Polar Star to Cuban Ambassador to Mongolia Richardo Danza Sigas. The first secretary of the People's Revolutionary Party and chairman of the Great Hural stated that the award was presented to the Cuban representative because of his work in favor of constantly developing the multifaceted relations between Cuba and Mongolia. He also pointed out that since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, relations have been based on the principles of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism. For his part, Ambassador Danza Sigas stated that he accepted the award as a symbol of the close ties of Cuban-Mongolian fraternal cooperation.

BRIEFS

UJC DELEGATION IN AFGHANISTAN--A delegation from the Cuban Union of Young Communists (UJC) that is visiting Afghanistan has been given a warm welcome in the regions it has toured in that fraternal country. The Cuban youth delegation is headed by UJC National Committee Secretary Osvaldo Castro and is there in response to an invitation of the Afghan youth organization. [Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 11 Jan 79 FL]